



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) average annual unemployment rate for 2000 is 3.1 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This is six-tenths of a percentage point below the 1999 annual average rate of 3.7 percent. The number of employed persons increased by 9,892 individuals, or 4.5 percent, from 1999 and the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 997, or 11.8 percent, over the year. The combination of the increasing number of employed and the decreasing number of unemployed resulted in an increase of 8,895 individuals, or 3.9 percent, in the *Civilian Labor Force* from 1999 to 2000. *Civilian Labor Force* figures for the rest of the counties in southwest Idaho are located at the end of the newsletter in FYI Table 1. Washington County was the only county in southwest Idaho that experienced a higher annual average unemployment rate in 2000 than in 1999. All other southwest Idaho counties experienced a drop in the unemployment.

Over the year, the Boise City MSA *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 9,850 jobs or 4.7 percent. *Goods Producing Industries* experienced an increase of 1,173 jobs or 2.3 percent over the year. The largest increases were noted in *Construction & Mining* with an increase of 843 jobs and in *Electronic & Other Electric Equipment & Components* with an increase of 705 jobs over the year. *Wood Buildings & Mobile Home Manufacturing* experienced the largest loss in *Goods Producing Industries* with a loss of 19.1 percent of jobs since 1999. The decrease in demand and increase in interest rates may be reasons for the decrease in employment in this industry. *Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* also lost employment over the year with notable losses in *Food & Kindred Products*, primarily *Canned Cured & Frozen Foods*.

The majority of new jobs in 2000 were created in the *Service Producing*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	Projected 2000	1999	% Change From Last Year
Boise MSA, Ada and Canyon Counties			
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE			
Unadjusted			
Civilian Labor Force	238,979	230,084	3.9%
Unemployment	7,488	8,485	-11.8%
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.1%	3.7%	
Total Employment	231,491	221,599	4.5%
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK			
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	220,963	211,113	4.7%
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Mining & Construction	16,029	15,186	5.6%
Manufacturing	36,919	36,588	0.9%
Durable Goods	28,373	27,834	1.9%
Lumber & Wood Products	3,527	3,804	-7.3%
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,020	1,261	-19.1%
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,508	2,543	-1.4%
Fabricated Metal Products	1,286	1,247	3.1%
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	8,013	8,004	0.1%
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	11,681	10,976	6.4%
Transportation Equipment	1,886	1,915	-1.5%
Other Durable Goods	1,980	1,888	4.9%
Nondurable Goods	8,545	8,754	-2.4%
Food Products	5,714	5,970	-4.3%
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,918	2,123	-9.7%
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,951	1,916	1.8%
Other Nondurable Goods	880	868	1.4%
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES			
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	168,016	159,339	5.4%
Transportation	6,470	6,332	2.2%
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,096	4,616	10.4%
Trade	54,241	50,911	6.5%
Wholesale Trade	13,201	12,570	5.0%
Durable Goods	7,791	7,402	5.3%
Nondurable Goods	5,410	5,169	4.7%
Retail Trade	41,040	38,341	7.0%
General Merchandise Stores	4,532	4,084	11.0%
Foods Stores	7,867	7,218	9.0%
Eating & Drinking Places	14,604	13,647	7.0%
Other Retail Trade	14,037	13,392	4.8%
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,270	11,339	-0.6%
Business Services	57,433	53,982	6.4%
Health Services	14,441	13,295	8.6%
Hospitals	16,128	15,313	5.3%
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	7,365	7,032	4.7%
Other Services	4,328	3,930	10.1%
	22,536	21,444	5.1%
Government	33,507	32,158	4.2%
Federal Government	4,860	4,803	1.2%
State Government	12,659	11,855	6.8%
Education	4,085	3,888	5.1%
Administration	8,574	7,967	7.6%
Local Government	15,987	15,500	3.1%
Education	10,432	10,105	3.2%
Administration	5,556	5,395	3.0%

* Preliminary Estimate, includes December 1999-November 2000 figures.

**Estimates include all full- or part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Industries, with 8,677 new jobs created, a 5.4 percent increase over last year. The only industry in this field that lost jobs over the year was *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* where 69 jobs were lost. The industries leading job growth over the year were *Retail Trade* (2,699), *Business Services* (1,146), *Health Services* (815), *Other Services* (1,092), and *State Government* (804).

AREA HIGHLIGHTS

Boise City MSA

- Forbes magazine ranked the Boise City MSA as the fifth-best place in the United States to do business and advance a career. The magazine ranked 200 metropolitan regions by eight business categories including the following: wage and salary growth, job growth, and high-tech clustering.
- Boise State University announced that students at the Canyon County campus, Boise State University West, would not be attending classes until 2005, although crews have already begun installing underground utility and phone lines, landscaping, and constructing roads.
- First Security Bank and Zions Bancorp terminated their merger agreement in March, and soon after Wells Fargo announced the buyout of First Security Corporation for \$2.9 billion. The combined corporation ranks as the largest bank in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico. A First Security Branch in Boise and one in Nampa were sold to Glacier Bancorp, Inc. and will operate as Mountain West Banks after the merger is completed. Wells Fargo and First Security also announced an expansion of First Security's call center and loan documentation center in Boise; the expansion could add 122 new jobs initially.
- Morrison Knudsen Corporation purchased the engineering and construction division of Raytheon, which employs 14,000 worldwide. The acquisition made Morrison Knudsen one of the top ten construction companies in the nation. It was also renamed the Washington Group International, Inc., after its newest chairman Dennis Washington, who arrived four years ago and rescued the company from bankruptcy.
- Alaska Airlines, Inc. recently announced plans for a new reservations service center in Boise in 2001. The new call center will be constructed on West Overland Road, near the Maple Grove intersection, and will answer calls regarding travel reservations, departure and arrival schedules, and other flight information. About 200 people will be employed at the Alaska Air Boise call center.
- Wal-Mart expanded the Boise store to a Supercenter. The store remained open during the remodel. The chain opened two new Supercenters in Canyon County on August 16, and construction started on Fairview Avenue next to the Texas Roadhouse restaurant, in the Crossroads Shopping Center, and at the corner of Glenwood and State Streets in Boise. Completion is expected in 2001. In addition, Home Federal and Wal-Mart announced a deal in late June that will place a Home Federal branch in all ten of the Wal-Mart retail outlets opening in Idaho this year. Wal-Mart has no future plans for construction of additional Supercenters in the Treasure Valley once their newest stores open in 2001.
- Boise's old Power House, located near the connector, was renovated into an event center and offices. The Power House Event Center will house the commercial real estate office of Kowallis & Mackey in a loft on the second floor of the facility that overlooks the event center area. The event area will be 5,000-square feet in area and be available for a variety of events.
- After Albertson's merger with American Stores, it is the second largest grocery chain in the country and moved from 92 to 24 on Fortune 500's top company list. Albertson's, Inc. will build a new store to replace the existing building at the corner of Overland and Vista in Boise. The Albertson's located at 2500 E. Blaine Street in Caldwell started a remodel and expansion project that should be completed in January 2001. In addition, Albertson's opened Boise's first Sav-On store earlier this year at the former Shavers grocery store site on Bogus Basin Road.
- In downtown Boise many projects started, including the construction of the \$62.6 million Ada County Courthouse, which should open in February 2002. Many businesses also opened downtown, including the following fast-food chains: McDonald's on Main Street, Subway on the corner of Ninth and Main, and Blimpie in the Bank of America Center. The Mosaic Gallery Wine Bar opened in the space next to Cristina's Bakery & Coffee Bar at the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in Boise. Mortimer's Idaho Cuisine replaced Renaissance Ristorante Italiano at 110 South 5th Street in downtown Boise. The Bon was remodeled for new floors, wall fixtures, carpeting, and painting that corresponded with the expansion of the furniture floor space at the downtown outlet.
- The Basque Block downtown completed a \$350,000 renovation project, which created "a plaza with the open-air feel of a European street." In the same area, a 4,000 square-foot warehouse on Grove Street between Sixth Street and Capitol Boulevard was renovated into a marketplace. Called The Grove Street Place, it houses Saffron, Café Bottego, and The Reading Room, and is designed to be an open gathering place for shoppers and restaurant-goers.

- The Idaho Stampede recently signed a three-year lease with Boise's Bank of America Centre. Stampede representatives believe that the move will bring more people to the games because of the B of A Center's proximity to downtown restaurants, bars, and shops.
- The Downtown Boise YMCA celebrated the completion of its expansion/renovation project that began in March 1999. The expansion adds 24,000 square feet and added another full-sized pool, a children's pool, four new private locker rooms, a larger cardio room, a second full-sized gym with basketball hoops, and an expanded Youth Activity Center that features a rooftop playground. YMCA officials also approved the Western Canyon Youth Club in Caldwell to become a YMCA affiliate. The long-term vision is to have a full-facility family YMCA in Caldwell that serves the entire spectrum of that community. Construction of the new facility may take 12 months, and the Caldwell Y could be operational in as soon as two years, although no formal timeline has been announced.
- The Nampa Boys & Girls Club opened in late January. Kids ranging in age from 6 to 18 are invited to join the club for a \$10 annual fee and programs include arts and crafts, sewing, computer classes, cooking classes, and sports. The club is open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays.
- Many businesses announced plans to build new facilities in 2000, including Zamzows near Wal-Mart on Overland, Albertson's at Vista and Overland, Albertson's at Overland and Maple Grove, and a Walgreens at Fairview and Locust Grove. Murphy's Seafood & Steak House and the Chart House completed remodeling projects to attract customers. Stuart Anderson's Black Angus Restaurant reopened in a new location near the Edwards 21 Theater Complex. Mor Furniture for Less opened its first Idaho store in the former Best building in Boise in May. Lithia Motors, Inc. announced plans to build a new Ford dealership at the former Roundtree Chevrolet site on Fairview Avenue.
- Idaho Athletic Club announced plans in July to construct another club on State Street in Boise. The company is planning a 28,000 square-foot building on Lakeharbor Lane, initially, with additional construction planned later. The new building will employ 35 to 45 full and part-time employees. The new club is expected to open by summer 2001.
- Fred Meyer, Inc. announced plans to start construction of a new retail outlet at the corner of Franklin and Orchard in 2001. The company also announced plans to tear down the Franklin Shopping Center and build a new Fred Meyer store that will carry groceries and general merchandise.
- Shari's officials have announced plans to open an additional Boise restaurant in Capitol Village at Capitol Boulevard and Boise Avenue. Also opening soon in Capitol Village are Quizno's sandwich shop, Panda Express, and Moxie Java to accompany the anchor store Office Depot in the complex.
- Hewlett-Packard Company opened its first HP Business Solutions Center in Boise. The new business center was designed to provide integrated services and support for computer systems to businesses. The Center features a service repair area and a training room for people to learn computer systems and programs.
- Jabil Circuit opened its new facility in Meridian in February and started with 450 employees in the Meridian plant. The company also announced plans to expand its Meridian manufacturing facility. The move could create up to 700 jobs. The expansion will add 98,000 square-feet of space to the existing facility, and should be completed in 2001. Jabil is also expanding its other sites around the world.
- Micron Technology, Inc. aligned with several companies in 2000, including Compaq Computer Company, Dell Computer Company, Fujitsu, and KMT Semiconductor Ltd. The company also sold its Texas manufacturing plant to TriQuint, an integrated circuit maker headquartered in Portland. The 80 employees currently working at the plant will be transferred to an existing site in Dallas. The company also began a \$200 million expansion in South Boise that will bring 500 jobs into the economy. The 500,000 square-foot expansion project will include the construction of five new buildings—a new research and development fabrication area with clean rooms, a lab building, an office building, a new cafeteria, and a building for facility support. The new research and development facility will bring many high-paying engineering jobs to the area, as well as a wide range of other positions. The expansion project should be complete by the end of 2001. The company also announced the opening of its Lehi manufacturing plant in Utah.
- Crucial Technology, a division of Micron Technology, Inc., opened a call center in Meridian that employs 230 individuals. That number could go up as high as 500 in the future. Crucial Technology also opened an online store that specializes in PC peripherals.
- Micronpc.com announced the release of a new laptop, the Transport ZX, and introduced AskMAX, which is based on the Ask Jeeves' technology that is already utilized. AskMAX is an "online answer expert" for the entire www.micronpc.com website. It also announced the release of ClientPro Ct, the newest member of the ClientPro family. It is targeted for network organizations that need solid performance and a good value.

The ClientPro Ct is expandable and allows customers to configure one product to accommodate a number of different end-users, and is available for less than \$1,000. The new Microsoft Windows Millennium edition (Me) operating system is now offered in its desktops and notebook computers. Windows Me will allow the customers to create their own home networks to share printers, Internet connections, and other devices.

- Micronpc.com awarded Kendall Employment Plus a three-year contract for temporary staffing services, and signed a deal with Digital River to handle the e-commerce side of its online parts and accessories store, e-additions.com. It acquired a subsidiary of Inacom Corporation, Inacom Government Systems. The acquisition will double the amount of Micron employees in the Washington D.C. area. Deals with Staples, RadioShack Canada, and Outpost.com to sell Micron computers were announced. The company was awarded a blanket purchase agreement to provide information technology solutions to the U.S. Army's Armor Center at Fort Knox, KY, and announced an agreement with Advanced Micro Devices to be its new microprocessor vendor.
- HostPro, a Micronpc.com subsidiary, became the first North American ASP (Application Service Provider) to offer interBiz software packages. Customers will be able to rent these software packages for managing the manufacturing and financial aspects of their business. HostPro also invested \$7 million in Bird On A Wire, a Canadian Internet start-up company that should expand HostPro's international presence. The company aligned with Cardservice International, a provider of real-time secure credit-card transactions to merchants, which will allow for some of the lowest-cost transaction fees in the industry.
- Western Electronics started construction on its new manufacturing plant in Meridian in late June. The new 100,000 square foot building will also house the company's headquarters. It currently employs 130 individuals, but expects the work force to increase to 200 when the building is completed in December. Eventually, 400 individuals could be employed by Western Electronics at the Meridian site.
- ZiLOG hired 25 additional people at the Nampa plant because of increased sales. ZiLOG created several strategic alliances with Sunbeam Corporation and Calibre, Inc. The company also introduced a new embedded software suite in early September that would allow customers to use 8-bit microprocessors to access the Internet. The new, affordable suite runs on the company's Z180 8-bit microprocessor family. This software suite is available as of October 2000. For more information, please see www.zilog.com.
- RMC Internet Services announced in late May that it acquired eight Internet providers. The acquisition increased RMC's customer base by approximately 250 percent. The company has also moved to a new office on Federal Way.
- U.S. West updated its network connections for the residents of Canyon County. The local connections were updated to fiber-optic networks that added digital Internet capabilities to Caldwell as well as improving video-conferencing to Canyon County. The company also changed names to Qwest Communications and unveiled its new all-digital wireless voice and data service for Canyon and Ada Counties. The new service integrates customers' home phones, office phones, pagers, computers, and cell phone services into one cellular phone. Packages range from \$30 to \$75 based on the number of features ordered.
- The Meridian Crossroads Shopping Center is almost completely occupied as Sportsman's Warehouse, Shopko, Office Depot, Shepler's Western Wear, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Old Navy, Bath & Body Works, Famous Footwear, GNC, and Applebee's Neighborhood Bar & Grill took residence there. Louie's Pizza & Italian Restaurant opened on Fairview Avenue near Eagle Road in Meridian and the Holiday Inn Express and Suites opened at 800 Allen Street in Meridian (I-84 and Eagle Road).
- City Market at the corner of Eagle Road and Chinden Boulevard opened. The market includes a fish market, butcher shop, produce market, deli, wine shop, flower shop, coffee house, and a couple of staple aisles. Also, Boise Planning and Zoning Commission approved plans for a 125,400 square-foot Target store proposed at another corner of the intersection. It is expected to open in August 2001.
- The Idaho Center Auto Mall project began and is almost completed as the year comes to an end. Twenty-seven acres of property on the corner of Garrity Boulevard and I-84 will house the Auto Mall that will include Edmark GM Superstore, Dan Weibold Ford, and Peterson Dodge, Chrysler, Plymouth, Jeep.
- The Karcher Mall Renovation Project began this year, two years after the announcement of the project. The main entrance, center court, hallway, ceiling, floors, parking lot, and other entrances were renovated. Sportsman's Warehouse has plans to open a new store in the mall and Intermountain Outdoor Sports opened an outlet in the mall in May.
- The Edwards 14 Theater Complex on Karcher Road is packed with retail eateries including Blimpie, Moxie Java, Red Robin, and the Outback Steakhouse. Shari's

was built across the street and plans for an Olive Garden in the vicinity have been announced.

- A new Office Depot store opened in Nampa next to Fred Meyer, and Macs Hobby & Craft built a superstore on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard. Carl's Jr. opened a new restaurant in Nampa and announced plans to open another restaurant in Caldwell in the near future. The Jack In The Box franchise opened a third store in Nampa on Franklin Road between Noodles and Interstate 84. Idaho Central Credit Union also built a downtown Nampa branch office.
- Blacker's Complete Home Furnishings converted its operation on the Nampa-Caldwell Boulevard to an Ashley Furniture Home Store. Ashley Furniture is the fifth largest furniture chain in the world. The ownership remained the same, but Ashley Furniture manufactured products are now sold at the location. The conversion brought a larger selection of furniture to the store.
- Ste. Chapelle Winery announced an expansion that will triple the complex and expand the vineyards, which will result in a greater volume of wine produced. The expansion is expected to be completed sometime in 2002.
- The J.R. Simplot Company, headquartered in Boise, has announced plans to buy three Nestle USA Foodservices Division potato processing plants, one in Nampa and the other two in Washington. Nestle officials decided to focus on other sectors of the food and beverage production industries, and Simplot officials saw the opportunity to expand their domestic potato processing and exporting business. Simplot plans to operate the Nestle plants with the same management and employees, which means that the 391 employees at the Nampa plant and the 898 combined employees in the two Washington plants will not be affected.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center started construction on a new \$13 million building that will house an additional diagnostic cardiac catheterization lab. The new addition will enhance St. Als' heart program. The four-story, 80,000-square foot building will be joined to the North Tower by an enclosed sky bridge. The new wing is expected to be completed by late August 2001.
- West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell unveiled a new procedure that significantly reduces the amount of surgery required for melanoma and breast cancer patients, called sentinel lymph node biopsy. The new outpatient procedure is far less invasive than the traditional approach.

Adams County

- The Adams County Historical Society received a

\$259,070 grant from the Idaho Transportation Department in March. The grant was part of the state's Transportation Enhancement Program and will be used in the renovation of the two-story, 7,000-square foot brick building in New Meadows. The Pacific and Northern Idaho Railroad Depot will be restored, and once completed, the first floor will have 446-square feet for activities supporting historic functions and 1,531-square feet of office, retail, or commercial use. Renovations on the structure should begin near July 2001.

- A \$600,000 ten-year bond was approved for the Council Community Hospital in early August. \$450,000 will be used to pay off outstanding debts, \$110,000 will be used to upgrade the computer system to be compliant with Medicaid/Medicare billing requirements, and the remaining \$40,000 will be used for emergency room equipment, lab equipment purchases, telephone system upgrades, and kitchen appliance repair. The ultimate goal is to make the hospital as efficient as possible, ensuring operation in the long run. The hospital also acquired a Critical Care Access designation in 2000, which allows the hospital to be staffed by mid-level medical providers when necessary, have lower operating costs, and receive higher reimbursements from Medicaid.
- In early October, the Boise Cascade Community Park was officially opened. Park signs were designed and placed at the park. A new entranceway and dedication sign were created and the original leveling and seeding has been completed. City volunteers are to be thanked for all of their hard work on the project. Also, the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program has donated \$20,000 to the Adams County Recreation District to use towards the construction of a pond at the park. The pond will provide irrigation water for the park and double as a fishery that will be stocked with rainbow trout by the Idaho Fish and Game Department. The pond is expected to be completed by next summer.
- The new Adams County Courthouse opened in January in Council. The Council Valley Garden Club took on the project of landscaping the courthouse, and Phase I of a three-year plan started. The final project will include the planting of trees and shrubs in Spring 2001, the planting of grass in low-lying areas, lining the pathways with flowers, building a sign for the facility, and planting a garden and orchard.
- The New Meadows School was renovated in 2000. Improvements included the installation of air conditioners in the library and computer room, technological upgrades throughout the building, the installation of new furnaces and lights, a fire-alarm upgrade, the installation of water backflow protection, and elementary classroom water heaters.

- A & W All-American Foods opened an outlet in the Turning Point Chevron in New Meadows.

Boise County

- A new outdoor amphitheater, the Starlight Mountain Theatre, held its grand opening on May 26. The new theater was built on the banks of the Middle Fork of the Payette River in Garden Valley. The theater is scheduled to produce three Broadway musicals each summer. Summer 2000 selections were: "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," "The Sound of Music," and "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."
- President Clinton declared Boise County a federal disaster area because of the wildfires this year. The declaration released assistance to victims and businesses that have suffered damage as a result of the wildfires. The assistance effort was coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Aid to the victims could include grants to pay for temporary housing, loans to cover business losses, and other serious disaster-related expenses.

Elmore County

- Elmore County was one of the other nine counties designated as a disaster area and eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding throughout Idaho.
- An expansion at the Mountain Home Air Force Base will result in 179 new military personnel and three new civilian positions. The new positions will be distributed throughout the base, although most of the new positions will be allocated to the 390th and 391st fighter squadrons. The extra personnel on the base will enhance the wing's ability to fulfill its new assignment as an "on-call" rapid-reaction force for the United States Air Force.
- The Steele-Reese Education Center, a multi-media facility that will conduct environmental and astronomical education programs, was dedicated at the Bruneau Sand Dunes State Park in October. The park will now provide extensive programs on the natural history and wildlife of the park as well as astronomical studies. Future plans for the park include expanding the observatory capabilities, and to eventually include a solar system walkway and professional research staff. There are also plans to create an activity center that will give students a "hands on" approach to learn more about the unique environmental conditions that created the park and the wildlife that live in the area.
- The Elk Flat Campground was reconstructed by the USDA Forest Service to accommodate groups of campers and recreational vehicles. The money for the renovation came partly from an Idaho Department of Parks

and Recreation matching grant. The project was completed in July.

- PC Hut.com added a new classroom and 12 new computer systems to their existing facility. The new classroom and computer systems will be used for classes at the learning center.
- Many new businesses opened in Mountain Home over the past year including: Lucy's Beauty Shop and Massage Therapy Clinic, Sew Express, Taco Maker, Jake's Over the Top, Mayan Jamma Juice, the Airbase Road Chevron/Blimpie, Desert Mountain Cycles, Creative Reflections, Fashion Craft, the Crafters Outlet, the Abundant Live Food Bank, American Cash Express (A.C.E.), Wal-Mart Supercenter, Home Federal Savings (inside the Wal-Mart Supercenter), and Mirastar (the Wal-Mart gas station).
- The Pilot Truck Stop was virtually destroyed in a fire on July 11, 2000. Between 100 and 150 workers were displaced as company officials surveyed the damage and made decisions. The three restaurants that were housed in the truck stop—Dairy Queen, Subway, and the Great American Café—were destroyed in the fire. Officials say they want to rebuild the businesses, although no further plans have been given.

Gem County

- Phase two of the renovation/expansion project at Walter Knox Memorial Hospital was completed in 2000. This phase involved the addition of a new wing for patient rooms and the remodel of existing patient rooms; all finished rooms will have a private bathroom/shower and cable television. The hospital also began offering cancer treatments to residents in February. On a related health care note, the Valley Family Health Care clinic opened the doors of its new 10,000 square foot facility in Emmett in June 2000.
- The City of Emmett approved the Meadowbrook Apartment Complex in early 2000. The new complex will be built on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets and offer low to medium priced apartments. Tax revenues from the property are expected to exceed \$25,000 per year for the City.
- Several new businesses opened in Emmett over the past year including the following: Loving Adult Day-care, Twice Nice, Audio EFX, Val's TV & Appliance, Perfect Image Beauty Supply & Gifts, The Nail Shop, Central Furniture, La Perla Mexican Store, Michele et Amis, Café Amore, Dynamic Electronics, and American Mortgage.
- The 66th Annual Cherry Festival was held at the end of June in Emmett. The five-day festival included a carni-

val, beauty pageant, a fun run/walk, an art fair, quilt show, parades, softball games, and of course cherry pie-eating contests. For the first time in eight years, cherries grown in orchards around the valley were available for picking during the festival. Cherries were sold in town, and directions to local orchards were available for people who wanted to pick their own.

Owyhee County

- A study conducted by the University of Idaho, the Owyhee County Social and Economic Assessment, was presented to the Owyhee County commissioners in January. The conclusions of the study showed that the economy relies heavily on agriculture. It also revealed that Owyhee County is losing money because people who live in Owyhee County are working in other counties and spending their money elsewhere.
- The Owyhee County Commissioners agreed to fund the first phase of the enhancement of the 911 emergency telephone system. Phase one of the project includes a "needs and resources" assessment, the completion of rural addressing, and system mapping. Phase two of the project will consist of installing the necessary equipment, which will include a database and dispatch center. This project has been in the works for three years. No final date of implementation has been announced.
- The former Job Corps site south of Marsing was sold in late March. The Ertl's of Ertl Enterprises in Eagle purchased the property at an auction. The 52-acre site includes 24 buildings, and the Ertl's plan to build a river-front home and renovate the warehouses for businesses to occupy. Also, they want to turn some of the property into a camp for children. The details are still undecided.
- A new barn was built at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds. The new 120 by 200 foot barn replaces the barn that was burned down in 1997. The new barn was ready before the county fair.
- Several new businesses opened in Owyhee County during 2000, including Strike A Pose Dance Academy, The Marsing Resource Center's Computer Lab Fun Center, Quintessence Aromatics, Snake River Upholstery, and Main Street Supply in Marsing. Complete Animal Feed and Supply, Perfection Repair, the Trojan Hut and Homedale Auto Recyclers opened in Homedale.

Payette County

- Education Financial Services moved from Payette to a larger facility in Fruitland. The company has plans to double its employment count from 15 to 30 by the middle of 2001. Expansion of the new facility is projected.

- Lettunich & Sons, the large livestock operation outside of Fruitland, started auctioning off its Angus and Brangus registered livestock herd in late April. About 2,400 head of animals were to be sold in the three-day auction. The auction was advertised nationally and in Mexico and Canada; buyers were expected to come to the Treasure Valley to purchase animals with proven records of quality and production. The equipment and real estate was liquidated at an auction held in late May.
- Payette County held an open house for the new jail facility in late July. The open house included a tour of the nearly completed facility. The addition to the current jail includes 53 beds, a full laundry area, kitchen, dining area/recreation room, visitation area, inmate work area, and a medical exam/breath testing room.
- The Fruitland Planning and Zoning Commission awarded a conditional use permit to Fleetwood Retail Corporation of Idaho, which will allow the business to sell manufactured homes at Bouvia Fleetwood Home Center along Gayway Junction in Fruitland.
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank opened a branch in Fruitland in July 2000. The business is now operating in a modular facility and will move into a permanent facility in early 2001.
- Several Payette County businesses moved to larger locations or expanded their own properties within the past year. The Payette County Extension Service moved to a new, larger office on North 9th Street in 2000. Farmer's Mutual Telephone Company will expand its current facility by 4,500 square feet; the addition will be built across from the current facility and house the customer service operations. The Fruitland City Hall addition was completed in August; the addition included a fire training room, chamber of commerce office, city council room, and new fire station.
- The new small businesses that opened within the county over the past year include Kwik Copies, Etc., Waves Hair and Nail Salon, The Fruit Basket, and Mom's Curios and Collectibles.
- The Pheasant Ridge Driving Range was opened in July in the Nu Acres area off of U.S. Highway 95. The owners also announced the opening of a 9-hole executive golf course in the spring of 2001.

Valley County

- Several artists opened galleries in the McCall area in 2000. LaRose Sculpture Gallery opened in the Yacht Club Building, Origins of Art opened on Lake Street in McCall, with a sister store opening up in the Boise Towne Square Mall in Boise, and Looney's Landing Studio opened in the McCall Mall within the past year.

- A number of businesses moved, or opened within Valley County in 2000. Adventure Paint & Home Décor moved from North Third Street to Commercial Street in McCall. Rumors Salon in Village Square added a Massage Therapy Clinic to their list of services over the past year. In Cascade, the Chief's High Country Inn and Restaurant changed ownership last year, with the new owners remodeling the restaurant and changing the menu.
- McCall Public Library officials announced an expansion project that would add 1,800 square feet onto the existing building in the form of a meeting room/community center that could hold 10 people and also act as additional storage space for the library. The library also received a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to add two computer stations that will hold a variety of software programs and resources available to the community. The Cascade Public Library also received money from the foundation to provide one computer station in its building.
- Several nonprofit organizations moved within McCall over the past year including the Payette Lakes Medical Clinic, which opened its new building to the public in January. The McCall Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop opened in July, the McCall Job Service and Department of Health and Welfare moved into a combined office building off of US Highway 55 in October, and the McCall Fire Station announced plans to build an 18,600 square foot building.
- Plans for a new building that will house the Meadows Valley Ambulance Service and the Meadows Valley Rural Fire Protection District in New Meadows were made with the proposed completion date of Fall 2001.
- Shore Lodge officials announced a delay in the opening of the Lodge until June 2001. At that time, the renovation project should be complete, in time for the peak tourist season. Whitetail Golf Course also announced that it would open in June to coincide with the reopening of Shore Lodge in McCall.
- Hotel McCall officials began a 15,000 square foot expansion and renovation project in August. The additional building will be connected to the old building by a shared entryway and an elevated walkway. The project should be finished by June 2001.
- In mid-January, Brundage Ski Resort proposed an expansion plan to the Payette National Forest. If approved by the U.S. Forest Service, Brundage would add five chairlifts, approximately 1,500 acres of chairlift served terrain, a mountaintop restaurant, two skier service facilities, 227 acres of groomed runs, 5.3 acres of additional parking, support facilities, and mountain-biking trails.

Washington County

- The Washington County Commissioners and Planning & Zoning Commission approved a special use permit for a gravel pit to be built in the Goodrich area, north of Cambridge. The group did place a condition on the permit that reserved the right for the commission to place restrictions on the operation in the future; this was done so that the gravel pit will not hinder future development and residential construction of the area.
- The Weiser downtown revitalization project started in June and was completed in early November, just in time for the groundbreaking of the Vendome Events Center. The new downtown community center is being built on the corner of State and Commercial Streets and should be open sometime during the summer of 2001.
- The 48th Annual National Old-Time Fiddlers Contest was held in late June in Weiser. Over 350 musicians participated in the musical competition. Thousands of people came to Weiser to participate in the events, which included the musical competition, arts & crafts shows, barbecues, a parade, and a motorcycle rodeo. Merchants from Weiser and the surrounding areas benefited from the influx of participants and spectators to this annual event.
- Several new businesses opened in the Weiser area during 2000, including Curves for Women, a women-only fitness and weight-loss center, Fruits and Vegetables With A Peel, a new produce merchant, Perceptions Custom Embroidery, and Spanky's Grill, a family steakhouse.

Jennifer Pirtle, Labor Market Analyst
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID
(208) 895-6642

E-mail: jpirtle@labor.state.id.us